

Application No. 10/781,466
Amendment C dated June 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed January 30, 2006

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed January 30, 2006. Claims 2, 6-13, 15, 19, 23-27, and 35 are cancelled and claims 1, 3, 14, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 36 are amended. Claims 1, 3-5, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 28-34, and 36 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 2, 36, and 35 have been objected to for various informalities. Claim 36 has been amended to correct the noted formalities and claims 2 and 35 have been canceled. Therefore, the objections to claims 2 and 35 are moot and Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 36, and 35 be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph for lack of antecedent basis for the term "substantially convex lens." Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for this claim term.

The Examiner rejects claim 14 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. According to the Examiner, the added limitation of "to receive uncollimated light" is new matter that was described in the specification. The Applicants disagree with the

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Examiner's assertion and assert that this element is illustrated in the drawings. However, this element of claim 14 has been deleted. Therefore, the rejection is moot and the Applicants request that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

III. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4, 19, and 28-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 1 and 19 to include the elements of claims 2 and 19 respectively in independent form. The Applicants have also rewritten claims 3, 4, and 28 in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art, and are now in a condition for allowance. Moreover, for at least the same reasons, claims now depending from independent claims 1, 3, 14, and 28 – namely, claims 4, 5, 16-18, 20-22, 29-34, and 36 – are also in a condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1, 3-5, 14, 16-18, 20-22, 28-34, and 36 are now pending in view of the above amendments, and all are patentably distinct from the prior art. Allowance of each of these claims is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 28th day of June, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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